



MARAD Update



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Welcoming Home the TS Empire State VI Following Its Historic Mission to the Gulf Coast

By Bill McDonald, North Atlantic Region



the recovery of regional infrastructure, providing berthing for up to 400 petroleum industry workers and dependents at a time and serving more than 125,000 meals. This achievement constituted more than half the total berthing and meals provided by all MARAD ships deployed in hurricane relief operations.

William Cahill, Acting Director, Ship Operations, praised the performance and dedication of the *Empire State's* crew on behalf of Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian. Also attending the ceremony were Nuns Jain, Director, South Atlantic Region; Robert McKeon, Director, North Atlantic Region; Paul Gilmour, Chief, Division of Maintenance and Repair; and Gerry McNamara, Marine Surveyor, who is responsible for the maintenance and readiness of the *Empire State*.

The TS Empire State VI at 7th Street Wharf, General Cargo Docks, Port of New Orleans.

Photos Courtesy of SUNY Maritime College

The entire crew of the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Training Ship *Empire State VI* was honored with a special welcome-home ceremony at Throgs Neck, New York, March 9, for providing outstanding hurricane relief service to the Gulf Coast region during the ship and crew's recent historic six-month deployment.

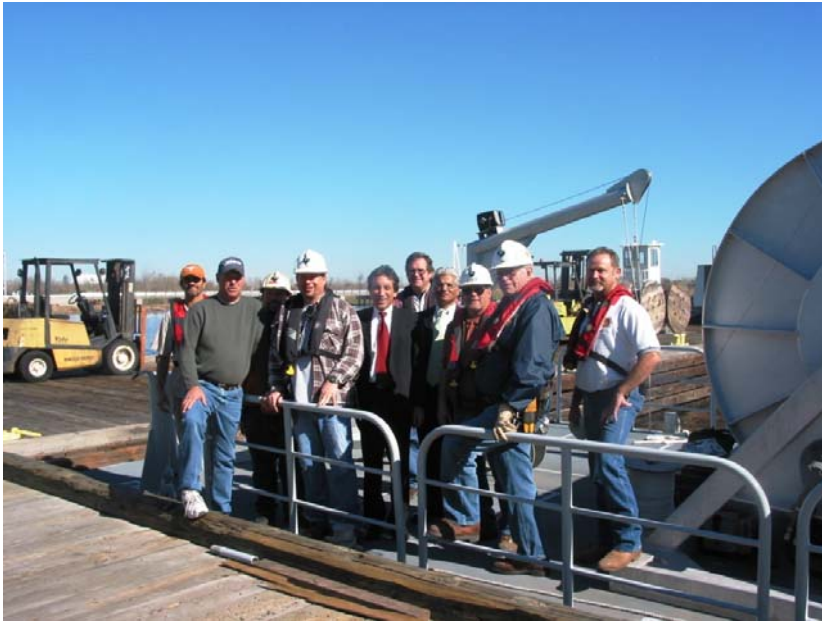
The ceremony, held on the Maritime College campus of the State University of New York, was sponsored by MARAD's Office of Ship Operations and South Atlantic Region. MARAD officials, along with university officials including the college's acting president retired Navy Vice Adm. John Craine, were joined by scores of Maritime College cadets to welcome home the recently returned crew, recognize their exceptional seamanship and professionalism, and thank them for their service to their fellow Americans in need.

During its deployment as part of the Hurricane Katrina relief operation, the *Empire State* played a critical role in



Officers and crew members of TS Empire State VI.

Six Beaumont Reserve Fleet Employees Lauded for Their Dedication to Duty in Response to Hurricane Rita



Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian and Central Region Director Dee Varshney (with ties) with some of the Beaumont Reserve Fleet crew after the awards ceremony.

At the special recognition ceremony held in Beaumont, Texas, on January 31, Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian presented plaques to six Beaumont Reserve Fleet employees to recognize them for their outstanding efforts in response to the devastation of Hurricane Rita. They are:

Mike Stasinos – Mike had evacuated to Bald Knob, Arkansas, when he was asked to report to work. Mike made his way back to Beaumont with his family where he spent the night in the back of his pickup due to the damage sustained to his home. When Mike arrived at the Fleet, he worked continuously to get the facility in order.

Roger Knod – As he made his way to report for duty from De-Queen, Arkansas, Roger was nearly arrested by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper when he tried to pass through a road block. Staff from MARAD Headquarters got the trooper to let Roger pass. Roger worked diligently to assist with standing up the Fleet's operations center.

Charles Sandoz – Charles struggled to return to the Fleet from Zavalla, Texas, and worked for the next few days in the heat: securing barges, boarding ships, scrounging material and needed equipment. Charles finally took some time to return to his home to retrieve food and water and found that someone had broken into his home. Yet, Charles had the resolve to return to the Fleet to continue working with his co-workers to re-establish the Fleet operation.

Madeline Bailey – Madeline rode out the storm at her home in Bridge City, Texas, and was one of the first to return to the Fleet. She assisted with assessing damage to the Fleet, assembled the crew, took up administrative responsibilities by answering phone calls and coordinating with Central Region and Headquarters personnel who were working diligently to acquire funding and other support functions critical to standing up the operation.

Lawrence Wolford – "Bubba" was in Warren, Texas, when he snapped into action to return to the Fleet he loves so much. He assessed the damage in the Fleet, assembled the crew and answered many phone calls from MARAD officials, Army Corps of Engineers, and Moran Towing Company. Bubba spent the next few days in constant motion working to retrieve lash barges from the waterway, coordinating with Central Region and Headquarters representatives who were on site working diligently to acquire funding and establishing lines of communication. Bubba's wife Kathy helped with phone calls and maintaining administrative order.

Scott Harper – Scott went to extraordinary lengths to return to the Fleet immediately following the hurricane from his home in Village Mills, Texas. Scott worked diligently to assist with retrieving lash barges, while his fiancée Kelly assisted the safety officer with answering the phone and developing a newsletter for the employees covering ongoing community recovery information. Kelly was six months pregnant at the time, and we are pleased to announce Scott and Kelly had a healthy baby boy, Jarrick Harper.



Scott, Kelly, and Jarrick Harper and Scott's mother at the awards ceremony.

Central Region Employees Honored after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian traveled to the Gulf Coast to recognize the men and women of the Maritime Administration's Central Region who distinguished themselves in the performance of their jobs during the recovery and relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian receiving a plaque proclaiming January 31, 2006, as "Maritime Administration Ready Reserve Fleet Day" from City of Beaumont Mayor Guy Goodson.

Photo courtesy of Brent Christopher

On January 30, Jamian presided over an awards ceremony in New Orleans, where he was joined by Port Director of New Orleans Gary LaGrange, MARAD's Central Region Director Dee Varshney and the captains and crew members of MARAD ships involved in the recovery and relief efforts.

Jamian personally thanked each ship manager and crew member of all MARAD vessels involved in this unprecedented domestic relief effort: *Equality State*, *Wright*, *Empire State*, *State of Maine*, *Sirius*, *Texas Clipper II*, *Cape Kennedy*, *Cape Knox*, *Diamond State*, *Cape Vincent* and *Cape Victory*.

Jamian stated, "Our MARAD ships and our people played a key role in the New Orleans, Lake Charles and Beaumont areas' recovery efforts from both hurricanes and have been absolutely crucial to restoring the Gulf Coast economy that powers the national economy."

On January 31, Jamian traveled to Beaumont, Texas, where he recognized the many employees of the Central Region who participated in the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Jamian was honored by Mayor of Beaumont Guy Goodson and members of the Beaumont City Council who hosted a luncheon to recognize MARAD's efforts during Hurricane Rita. Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith, Jefferson County Commissioners, Varshney, and various local emergency responders also attended.

During the celebration, Jamian commented on the good relationship between Beaumont city officials and MARAD. He said, "The city of Beaumont is very welcoming to two important Maritime Administration programs, the Beaumont Reserve Fleet and the Ready Reserve Force. Our relationship with Beaumont is one of which we are proud. The federal government and this wonderful city have established a model relationship that serves our country well."

There were, Mr. Jamian pointed out, "People in our New Orleans office when Katrina came through, who evacuated to Port Arthur and kept doing their work. Then, when Rita came through, they evacuated again but kept doing their work."

Jamian further stated, "The Ready Reserve Force ships *Cape Vincent* and *Cape Victory* assumed the role of a steel version of Noah's Ark by taking 380 emergency vehicles from miles around on board to weather Hurricane Rita. It was incredible to us at headquarters in Washington to hear about the fire engines and ambulances coming on board our ships in Beaumont. Then came the request from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to wheel two police helicopters on board for search and reconnaissance after the storm. And let's not forget the call from Police Officer Renee Utley from the Port of Beaumont to house 17 dogs."

Jamian concluded the awards ceremony by stating to the Central Region employees, "Your response to the overwhelming disasters has been efficient, level-headed and thorough. All of you have done so much to help the victims of these storms and aid in the recovery, and I want you to know that we are all very proud of you."

Record Enrollment for Maritime Administration-Sponsored Course at the Naval War College

By Retired Navy Vice Adm. James B Perkins



Retired Navy Vice Adm. Jim Perkins (yellow tie) with some of his students at the Naval War College.

The Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, recently hosted the largest class ever assembled for its "Operational Logistics; Sealift Equations" course as 20 students from all five military services enrolled and attended the Maritime Administration-sponsored training.

Taught by retired Navy Vice Adm. James B. Perkins, the Emory S. Land Chair of Merchant Marine Affairs, the course traces merchant mariner contributions from the first arrivals to these shores, to the evolution from sail-to-steam commerce to expansion west to war-time sealift. The impact of organized labor and disasters at sea, the evolving body of maritime law, which today regulates the industry, and Department of Defense-related programs are also discussed.

Today's challenges—from protecting ships and ports, to piracy, to shipbreaking, to invasive species—are considered, and case studies are used to examine the logistics challenges of recent events. The course also takes a look to the future by examining sea basing, high-speed shipping, short-sea shipping and mixed crews. Student presentations conclude the instruction.

The course is intended as an overview that, with individual focus, will fill voids in the warrior's professional tool kit and deepen appreciation of operational logistics in general and sealift/merchant marine in particular.

MARAD Update

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